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00684.003556

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Unassigned
Masanobu SAITO, et al.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 1756
Appln. No.: 10/715,533)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 5584
Filed: November 19, 2003)	
	:	
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS)	May 20, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATUS INQUIRY

Sir:

Applicants filed the above-identified application on November 19, 2003.

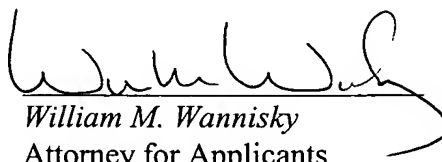
To date, Applicants have not received an Official Action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office indicating that the case has been examined.

Applicants respectfully request that an Official Action be issued in the application and/or that an Official Communication be issued advising when an action on the merits will be prepared.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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